

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-4 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently all of the claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 1-4:

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the previously applied U.S. Patent No. 6,218,930 to Katzenberg et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

As discussed previously, the present invention is directed to a terminal adapter which connects a terminal to a computer LAN, where the terminal adapter can identify different types of terminals by detecting the presence of a particular identifier electronic circuit, even though the terminal does not include any such identifier circuit as standard. The adapter contains connectors to insert the adapter between the terminal and the network, and a passive identifier circuit specific to one type of terminal that the network is able to detect, where the passive identifier circuit is connected to at least two conductors of a network side of the connection. See claim 1. Applicant submits that this is not disclosed, taught or suggested in Katzenberg, in any way.

Applicant notes that contrary to what is shown in Katzenberg, the passive identifier circuit of the present invention, can be positioned in each terminal or in an adapter placed between a terminal and a LAN access (i.e. wall plug). In this configuration, the electrical characteristics of the passive identifier are remotely measured, and the measurements indicate the type of the terminal (for example whether it is able or unable to be remotely powered). Thus, the identifier circuit of the present invention is a passive identifier circuit, which is contrary to what is disclosed in Katzenberg.

As shown in Figure 3, Katzenberg uses an access node 64 having two input ports, one connected to the Ethernet network (via line 66) and the other connected to a remote equipment 62 (telephone). The Examiner attempts to equate the access node 64 with the "adapter" of the present invention. Further, the Examiner attempts to equate the remote power feed circuit, in Katzenberg, (which determines three types of voltage levels) as the "identifier circuit" of the present invention. Applicant submits that both of these attempts fail.

First, as shown in Figure 3 of Katzenberg, the access node 64 connects a phone 62 to Ethernet port switches 68. However, within Katzenberg there is no discussion of the need to "identify" the type of terminal the telephone 62 is. As such, there is no disclosure of need of placing an identifier circuit, of any kind, within the node 64. Stated differently, Katzenberg does not disclose the need to identify the type of telephone 62, thus Katzenberg fails to expressly disclose the node 64 having an "identifier circuit" similar to that set forth in the present application. *See* Katzenberg, col. 3, lines 61-63 (discussing the phone 62, without mentioning any need to identify the phone as any "particular" type of phone).

Further evidence of this is found at col. 4, lines 4-5, of Katzenberg, which indicates that the power is provided both to the access node 64 and the telephone 62. Because of this, it can be presumed that the node 64 contains some electronic components to provide some physical or logical functions, but there is nothing to indicate that the current consumption of these components during the DC testing (*see* Katzenberg, col. 3, lines 1-27) has a sawtooth shape so as to enable the identification of terminal equipment as being capable of accepting remote power in a reliable non-intrusive manner.

Second, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion, of any kind, that there is a passive identifier circuit in the node 64 specific to one type of terminal that the network is able to detect. *See* claim 1. Claim 1 clearly indicates that the adapter contains a "passive identifier circuit specific to one type of terminal that [the] network is able to detect." Claim 1. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of this feature, in any way, in Katzenberg.

Specifically, Katzenberg employs the active components 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30 to make a determination, as described above. Stated differently, Katzenberg employs active components/circuit to identify characteristics of a terminal, for example the phone 62. However, there is no disclosure of using a passive identifier circuit as set forth and claimed in the present application.

In view of the foregoing, Katzenberg fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 1. Further, as claims 2-4 depend on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

Request for Interview:

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner continues to reject the pending claims, Applicant hereby requests an interview with the Examiner so as to advance the prosecution of the present application.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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